

AUDRAIN HAD EARLY HISTORY OF INTEREST

Audrain county has contributed a fair share of the public men of the state. Charles H. Hardin governor; D. H. McIntyre, attorney general; George B. Macfarlane, supreme judge; Sam B. Cook, secretary of state; A. H. Buckner and J. E. Hutton, congress; Col. Green Clay, M. R. K. Riggs, state senate; Hardin and McIntyre also state senators; John W. Gamble, constitutional convention of 1865; Lebus R. Wiley, attorney general of the Philippine Islands and the first judge of the extra territorial United States court in China; Howard A. Gass, state superintendent of public instruction; and X. P. Wilfley U. S. Senator.

MEXICAN WAR

Audrain county was most too young to participate, excepting remotely, in the Mexican war. It contributed only one volunteer to Company H, First Regiment, Missouri Volunteers, made up in Callaway county and joining Doniphan's Regiment. That was Alexander Reed. Temple Wayne also went into the war from this county, but not in that company.

THE PRESS

The first newspaper published in the county was the Weekly Ledger, which was established at Mexico in the summer of 1855, by John B. Williams. In January, 1863, a paper called the Audrain County Beacon was established by Captain Amos Ladd and O. A. A. Gardner. John T. Brooks took an interest with Ladd and Ladd & Brooks published it is the Weekly Missouri Ledger. Later Brooks took over Ladd's interest and continued the publication till in March, 1872, Colonel J. E. Hutton purchased the paper and re-christened it the Intelligencer. In October, 1865, W. W. Davenport established the Messenger and soon afterward sold it to M. F. Simmons, who conducted it until September, 1874, when it was purchased by J. Lynn Ladd, who changed its politics from Republican to Democratic re-christening it the Ledger, and in 1876 sold the Ledger to R. M. White. Mr. White began publishing the Daily Ledger in 1886. Both weekly and daily issue of that paper are now published by R. M. White & Son, L. M. White.

THE CIVIL WAR

As noted above the old parties were prior to the Civil War about equally divided in the county. In 1860 all three of the Democratic tickets as well as the Republican were represented in the campaign. The Bell and Everett voters and the Douglass voters maintained flags on a pole in the court house yard throughout that campaign. In that election Lincoln received one vote in the county. As above noted Audrain's representative was a secessionist and its representative in the state senate was a Union man. Early in the spring of 1861 when the lines between union and secession were beginning to be drawn, the people of the county were about equally divided, there being, however, a strong secession sentiment in and around Mexico. The divided sentiment is well illustrated by an effort which was made to raise a secession flag in Mexico that spring. William O. Johnson, Green Bishop, James and Robert Carter and Joe Inlow were the leaders of the participants on the part of the secessionists. On the other hand, were George W. Fentem, Samuel Fentem, Henry Estes and W. H. White, the leaders of the opposition. It was undertaken to put the flag on the Bell and Everett pole of the fall campaign still standing. This resulted in a general fight in which no one

was killed but several badly hurt. The secessionists were compelled to retire without ever getting the flag on the pole and the secession flag never floated in Mexico.

The first troops stationed at Mexico were in June or July, 1861. A portion of the Second and Eighth Missouri Regiments, in all about six hundred men were under the command of Colonel Morgan L. Smith and Lieutenant Colonel G. A. Shaefer.

On August 6th Colonel Grant was ordered to St. Louis, and from there to Ironton, Missouri. While it is true that Grant's name was sent into the senate to be made brigadier general while at Mexico, he did not receive his commission until he had arrived at Ironton. The first order addressed to him as brigadier general was at that place August 8th and the next day, reporting to General Fremont, he says: "I arrived here yesterday and assumed command in pursuance of directions from Major General John C. Fremont."

He adds, "I received the most marked courtesy from the citizens of Mexico as long as I remained there." An account of his stay in Mexico is found in Personal Memoirs, Vol. 1, pages 251-253.

On account of Grant's after prominence in the Civil war, his location in Mexico at the very beginning of his career has always been regarded with great interest by the people here. There has been some controversy as to the location of his headquarters. It has been claimed that he had his headquarters in a house on the lot which has been purchased by the government for the postoffice building. Some day, the people of Mexico, or some patriotic society may want to mark the spot where he was located.

The Union forces were not of sufficient numbers in that time to spread all over and take charge of Northeast Missouri, hence in Audrain, Monroe, Boone, Marion and Callaway, remote from the county seats, where Federal posts had been established, there was a great deal of recruiting going on for the Confederates.

D. H. McIntyre, at that time a student at Westminster College, raised a company in Callaway county, composed largely of Audrain county men. John Murray raised a company in Audrain county which became a member of Colonel Brace's regiment. The first officers were captain, John Murray; first lieutenant, James B. Davis; second lieutenant, Henry Gillispie. Murray afterward became major of the regiment and was succeeded as captain by George W. Edmonston. W. J. Botts now living in Mexico, upon the reorganization of the regiment after the battle of Lexington became its ordnance master.

Grant was succeeded at Mexico by General S. D. Sturgis. Sturgis had under this control about four thousand men. He arrived at Mexico on the 9th of September, 1861, and was ordered to Lexington the 13th. He left a small force in charge of the post at Mexico.

The Confederate forces were never at any time able during the war to enter Mexico. After the battle at Moore's Mill the last of July, 1862, Col. Odon Guitart, with the Ninth Missouri moved into Mexico and in doing so cut off a Confederate force from entering Mexico and which was coming in that direction from Concord. Guitart was here a short while and afterward was promoted to brigadier general and placed in charge of the northern district of Missouri.

In August, 1864, a company of Home Guards was organized in Mexico, for the purpose of helping to defend the town from the various guerrilla bands operating throughout the county. John M. Gordon was captain; W. D. H. Hunter, first lieutenant; and F. M. Shryock, second lieutenant. There are many living in Mexico and its vicinity now who were members of Captain Gordon's company. It was their duty to keep the town picketed and to keep guards at the blockhouses at the railroad bridges on either side

of the town. The number of men going into the Federal service from Audrain county was probably about five or six hundred. The secession sentiment probably prevailed in the north and south parts of the county, but in Cuivre township, it was almost unanimously Union, from the beginning of the war until the end.

On May 7, 1868, the county court, composed of John B. Morris, Increase Adams and T. J. Marshall, ordered an appropriation of \$50,000 for the building of the third court house.

E. P. Cunningham, who in 1840 was one of the contractors to build the State University, was selected as commissioner. The contract was let for the building at \$40,900. Including everything, the house was built and accepted by the county court August 4, 1869, at a total cost of \$42,897.76.

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR
Audrain county contributed to the Spanish-American war in 1898 one company, Company L, Fifth Missouri Volunteers, officered by Herbert E. Black, captain; William C. Egan, first lieutenant; Hamilton B. McKinley, second lieutenant. The company was mustered in in April, 1898, went to Chickamauga Park in May and remained in camp until September when it was ordered to Kansas City, where it was mustered out.

MEXICO

So intimately connected with the history of Audrain county, is that of Mexico that necessarily a portion of its history is woven into that of the county. It was first incorporated by special act of the legislature, approved March 5, 1856. By this act it was styled "The Town of Mexico," and the corporate limits confined to the original town and the county addition as accepted by the commissioners when the county seat was located. The corporate powers were vested in a board of trustees, consisting of seven members chosen by the qualified voters. This board was authorized to select a chairman and also a town clerk, and the county court had power to appoint for the town, a justice of the peace, who should have the same power as other justices of the peace in Salt river township. This board also had power to appoint an assessor, collector, treasurer, constable and any other officer as might be necessary. Of course this board had power to enact ordinances for the government of the town. The act provided for the election of the board of trustees on the first Monday in April, 1856, but the organization of the town under that act, was neglected and as a consequence the town was not organized until the legislature passed an amendment providing for the election of the board of trustees on the first Monday in January, 1856. This act also provided that the trustees hold their offices for a period of one year, and for the election of trustees thereafter.

At the election held for that pur-

pose R. W. Bourn, Jacob Coons, John H. Slaughter, S. A. Craddock, A. Cuthorn, M. Y. Duncan and S. Scott were elected a board of trustees and subscribed to support the constitution of the United States and of the State of Missouri, and to faithfully demean themselves in office as trustees of the town of Mexico, on January 27, 1856, before Charles R. Ward, justice of the peace. R. W. Bourn, now living in Mexico, was elected chairman of the board. The first set of ordinances was adopted March 3, 1856.

The inhabitants of Mexico in 1860 were about 1,500 or 2,000; in 1870, about 3,000; in 1880, 3,835; 1890, 4,789; 1900, 5,099, and in 1910, 5,989.

Of the first merchants in Mexico very little is known excepting that the first mercantile business was that established by Jennings & Fenton, prior to the location of the county seat. They were succeeded by James E. Fenton, who sold dry goods, groceries and intoxicants under a license. Then George W. Turley kept a tavern in which he had license to sell intoxicants. Then Lycurgus L. Ramsey, Robert C. Mansfield and James H. Smith established first what would now be known as a grocery store. Then came John B. Morris and W. H. White and George F. Muldrow. Thomas Stone was the first cabinet maker in the town. Reuben Puls, Harry Norvell and David Cad were the first blacksmiths. James L. Stephens was one of the early merchants. The first gunsmiths were John and Did Welkins. Charles R. Ward in 1845 established a blacksmith shop and sugar factory here.

The county court reserved two lots, No. 6 and No. 7 in block No. 6 for a seminary, lot No. 8 in block No. 21 was reserved for a school house and the block in the northwest corner of the donated addition was reserved for a cemetery. The first grave was that of William Cardwell, brother of the county judge.

Numerous were the merchants of that time, but it would be uninteresting to give an account of all those engaging in business.

The first bank established in the town was the private bank of A. R. Ringo, in 1861, J. E. Dearing was the cashier, Ringo's bank, as it was called, continued in business until about the year 1867, when a corporation was formed called the Mexico National Savings Bank, with a capital stock of \$100,000, but the word national was soon stricken out and that bank has been known as the Mexico Savings Bank ever since. The first president was A. R. Ringo, J. E. Dearing was the first cashier, S. M. Locke was assistant cashier.

The Mexico Southern Bank was organized in 1867 by Charles H. Hardin, William M. Sims, William Harper, James Callaway and Joseph W. Carson.

In 1870 the Farmers and Traders Bank was organized with Henry Williams as president and R. R. Arnold as cashier. This bank was soon suc-

ceeded by another, The Mexico Exchange Bank, and in 1882, it was converted into a national bank with a capital stock of \$50,000, now the First National Bank of Mexico.

n 1903 North Missouri Trust Com-

pany was organized. W. W. Pollock was made president and James C. Mundy, secretary. The first directors were Wm. Pollock, W. W. Pollock, D. H. McIntyre, S. P. Emmons, R. M. White, George Robertson, George A.

Ross and R. J. Lawder. Prior to the Civil war the schools of the town were mainly private schools. There is no record extant of the public schools. (Continued on Following Page)

Mexico's Pioneer Bank

From the time A. R. Ringo, one of the early settlers here, started this bank in 1861 until today this institution has been one of the leading banks in Central Missouri.

The growth of the Mexico Savings bank has been due to farsighted financial policies, high banking ideals and sound business principles.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$150,000

UNDIVIDED PROFITS \$35,000

WE PAY INTEREST ON DEPOSITS

You Will Receive 3 Per Cent 6 Months, 4 Per Cent 1 Year!
MONEY IN THE BANK MAKES YOU PROSPEROUS.

OFFICERS

R. M. White, Pres. C. C. Helzer, V.-Pres. J. R. Jesse, Cash.
Sam Sharp and Walker Burns, Assistant Cashiers.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS — A. P. Green, W. W. Fry, Jr.,
C. C. Helzer, R. M. White, S. M. Locke, Nate
Phillip and R. B. Kerr.

UNDER STATE SUPERVISION

MEXICO SAVINGS BANK
SAFETY — SERVICE

This Bank is protected against burglary or daylight holdups by a modern burglar Alarm System, and also by Pinkerton's detectives. Bureau.

We're Making History

Mexico's Pioneer Trust Company

was organized in 1903 and started doing business in June of that year. Beginning with a paid in capital of \$75,000.00, this has been increased BY EARNINGS until now its Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits amount to \$187,964.79, and its total. Resources are well over a million dollars. Its growth has been largely due to

REAL SERVICE RENDERED

It gives its customers every Banking facility, as well as those added opportunities peculiar to a Trust Company.

OUR GREAT STATE OF MISSOURI

is entering on another century of progress and prosperity, let us all remember WE are making history in the way we shoulder our responsibilities. Let us make a record we will be proud of.

This Institution is ready to do its share, through its service to individuals and the community.

North Missouri Trust Co.

Mexico

Yesterday



TODAY

Ford
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

Fordson
TRADE MARK

Just consider how much better off you are than your forefathers in Audrain county who depended upon oxen for travel and team work.

Today the Ford car and the Fordson tractor lighten and speed up your travel and work problems.

We not only supply you with these two necessities but keep a complete line of repair parts on hand to give you instant service.

Ebert Motor Co.

Authorized Ford and Fordson Dealers

Mexico's Pioneer Laundry

Since the establishing of this business in 1904 by W. W. Williams this laundry has grown steadily until it has become one of the most modern and leading laundries in this section of the state.

We offer you every laundry facility that you could enjoy in the larger cities—and at a decided saving, in most instances, over the prices they charge.

We wash, SATISFACTORIALLY, everything from the daintiest and finest article you possess to tarpaulines.

SERVICE AND SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED

Crown Laundry Co.